

FENNER (ED.)

ANNUAL ADDRESS

—OF—

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EDWARD FENNER,

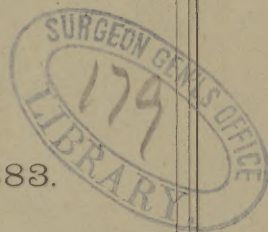
1ST VICE PRESIDENT,

**New Orleans Auxiliary Sanitary
ASSOCIATION.**

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND WHAT REMAINS TO
BE ACCOMPLISHED TO RENDER NEW
ORLEANS HEALTHY AND
PROSPEROUS.

Delivered February 13, 1883.

NEW ORLEANS:
W. B. STANSBURY & CO. PRINT, 38 NATCHEZ STREET.
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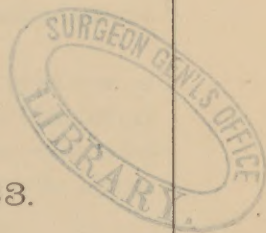
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Mr. Chairman—

It should be cause for congratulation among our citizens that the men who met together at the termination of the epidemic of 1878 to form the New Orleans Auxiliary Sanitary Association are yet—with two lamentable exceptions—at their post of voluntary labor.

The mere knowledge of the organization of this body has awakened, throughout the entire country, a feeling of profound interest. Everywhere a confident belief is expressed that through the measures it proposes and the business methods which such a body may with reason be expected to employ—the good health of New Orleans, and its uninterrupted prosperity will be assured.

The work that has been accomplished by this association, during its four years of life, is well known to sanitary authorities in every State of the Union. Each step toward reform has been watched by them with the greatest solicitude; and we are encouraged by their intelligent appreciation. It may well be so; our interests are identical. From every section of the country we are receiving words of commendation, mingled with expressions of amazement that opposition should be offered by any class of citizens to a movement of such transcendent importance.

As many of our citizens may not be aware of the existence of an association entitled the "Sanitary Council of the Mississippi Valley," it becomes part of our duty in connection with what has been previously stated, to make known to them its origin, motives and the drift of its debates.

The "Council" was organized by representatives of the State Boards of Health in the Mississippi Valley, who had been invited by the State Board of Health of Tennessee, to meet in Memphis on the 30th of April, 1879, "for the purpose of

counseling together and arranging a definite plan of co-operation, should events render it necessary to establish quarantine."

The Sanitary Council of the Mississippi Valley includes in its organization members of the State Boards of Health of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Illinois; also numbers of local boards and local sanitary societies, in the States above mentioned, and of sanitary societies in other States.

The object which induced this league of States is one which appeals so directly and with such force to the family, and to each individual inhabitant of every city, town and village in the whole country that it may reasonably be assumed that, until the general government shall "assume direction and control of national and maritime quarantine"—the Sanitary Council will not disband. On the contrary, the number of States represented in that body will steadily increase until it becomes a national and all-powerful organization.

The following quotation from the address delivered by R. C. Kedzie, president of the Council, at a called meeting held in this city on December 9, 1880, is of importance in elucidation of the foregoing remarks:

"When the leading sanitarians of the valley assembled at Memphis, the discussion assumed a much wider range than the matter of quarantine. Questions of sanitation assumed an importance equal to that of quarantine, and the discussions which arose and the plans which were then adopted were among the results, not least in importance, of that meeting. It may be objected that, notwithstanding the meeting of sanitarians, and the formation of the Sanitary Council, the yellow fever again visited and desolated Memphis. Too true. Memphians seemed smitten with an insane confidence that the fever would not strike their city two years in succession, and the instant and complete removal of all the active causes and adjuvants of the fever was fatally delayed. But if the Sanitary Council did not save Memphis from the yellow fever in 1879, it saved the river belt from the irresponsible shotgun policy and saved the valley from the commercial paralysis of an inflexible quarantine. In addition to this

the Sanitary Council stimulated local sanitation and pointed out the direction in which quarantine, when made necessary, should impose the least restraints upon travel and traffic compatible with public safety.

“The problems which came before the Sanitary Council at its formation are still unsolved; the possible dangers, which created this council, still hang over the vast valley. The questions of public health relating to the Mississippi valley rise to national importance, for it embraces a region of imperial extent and holds a commerce vast beyond human comprehension.

“The sanitary problems which dominate this valley cannot be settled by reference to the narrow limits of a State. Disease and pestilence know nothing of the arbitrary chalk marks which we call geographical lines. Deaf to all eloquence about States rights, the only right they recognize is the right of men to sicken and die, or to get well, if they can.

“The attempt to adjust the sanitary and commercial problems of this great valley by the co-operation of States jarring and discordant upon the very issues at stake, with the inevitable clash between self-interest on the one hand and the possible peril of distant peoples on the other—with the natural jealousy of rival cities and competing trade, and the mistrust which it is so easy to create and so hard to destroy—the attempt is crushed with defeat from the very outset.

“Each State may indeed consider itself amply competent to decide these questions for itself, or reject with proud disdain any outside interference or even suggestion. But commercially and sanitarily the States of this valley must stand or fall together. We are one body, not only politically but socially held together by the interlinking ties of pecuniary interest and the bonds of a common safety. Nature and history have alike decreed that we shall be one people. If a State could push her commerce in defiance of the sanitary welfare of sister States, the dark spectre of the shotgun quarantine and lawless vigilance committee rises in the background, an apparition before which even the pushing spirit of commerce must quail.

“If any one suggests that this dark picture is a figment of the imagination, I appeal to those who know this valley best if such

a picture might not become a frightful reality whenever the pestilence and commerce claim joint occupancy of the Mississippi? Confidence is the basis of commerce. It is an old saying that 'confidence is a plant of slow growth,' but slow as is its growth it may wither in an hour if the essential conditions of confidence are withdrawn.

"While every State is concerned in the proper settlement of these questions, no part of the country is more interested in the proper adjustment of these relations than Louisiana, and no city has more at stake than New Orleans. At the North, the line of export fluctuates between a southern and eastern outlet. If the Mississippi is obstructed, the lake region looks to the St. Lawrence and the Hudson, and the Hudson to the Potomac. But the sudden deflecting of these lines of travel and trade involves friction, and friction means loss. Yet the loss by the permanent deflection of the lines of trade would be a hundred-fold greater for New Orleans than for Chicago. It is a matter of importance for Chicago to have the interests of health and trade harmoniously adjusted; for New Orleans, it is a vital necessity. We may, therefore, safely look for the cordial co-operation of the citizens of the Crescent City in any project which looks to a permanent and satisfactory solution of the problems of public health as related to commerce.

"No effort to patch up matters so complex and conflicting, by the separate or even the joint action of the States immediately involved, promises permanent relief. No arrangement will have stability or withstand the pressure of public excitement, which does not insure general confidence.

"To insure such confidence, in the first place, the parties who direct and control in these affairs must be, not only truthful and impartial, but free from all temptation to concealment, evasion or injustice. In other words they must be, in the literal sense of the word, disinterested—without pecuniary, social or other motives to bias their decisions. Not that men are incapable of withstanding such influences, for there are thousands of honorable men who will act justly and uprightly in the face of the most powerful temptations. But, where a motive to sway one's judgment can be seen, in the cowardice of a public panic

the existence of such a motive will in itself create suspicion, and suspicion must be allayed if we would preserve the public tranquillity. No matter how unfounded is the suspicion, the suspicion is fatal.

“It is said ‘capital is timid,’ but it is bravery itself compared with the cowardly instincts of life. The scoffer of old announced a fundamental fact in human existence, when he exclaimed, ‘Skin for skin;’ yea, all a man hath will he give for his life.

“I know I am now not holding up the noble side of human character, but it is this very ignoble phase of humanity with which we have to deal in a popular panic. The history of this valley two years ago forbids the use of honeyed phrases in discussing this subject.

“In the second place, the organization, which shall have control of these two-fold interests of public health and commerce, must have authority co-extensive with the district threatened. It must overleap municipal and State barriers, because the interests involved and the dangers treated are not circumscribed by such limits.

“In the third place, it must have authority which shall be undisputed, because to be useful it must be promptly exercised in the presence of threatened danger. In such cases delay is defeat.

“In the fourth place, it must have the money and the means to promptly and efficiently carry out any steps necessary to guard the public health and to guard the interests of commerce as related to public health.

“All these considerations point to the national authority as the one power capable of affording us the protection and relief we need. The work is national in importance and should be carried out by the national arm. Either the present National Board of Health, with enlarged powers and increased facilities or some other national organization which shall still more completely meet this want, is our only hope of permanent relief.

“When such an organization is placed in charge of, and held responsible, for the safety of the great valley, then may the Sanitary Council of the Mississippi Valley exclaim, with one of old, ‘Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.’ But until the national authority assumes its proper position, and exercises its

proper control over these great interests of this valley, the Sanitary Council has a mission to fulfill.”

We also quote from the address of Dr. R. C. Kedzie, its presiding officer, delivered at the annual meeting convened on the third Wednesday in April, 1881 :

“ The tranquillity of the valley in the presence of danger was decisive proof of public confidence; but this feeling of confidence never rested upon the present State Board of Health of Louisiana. The broad ground of public confidence was the National Board of Health acting in concert with other boards of health in the valley, so far as the general sanitary matters of the valley were concerned, and in the Auxiliary Sanitary Association with reference to New Orleans.

“ This latter association is worthy of more than a passing notice.

“ It modestly calls itself an ‘auxiliary,’—not a principal. Without patronage or revenue, with nothing but the clear head and generous heart to do good, it has done more with less means than any volunteer sanitary organization in the history of the world.

“In a city which has been the sanitary opprobrium of the continent, confronted by problems in sanitary engineering of the most difficult character, without means, except the voluntary contributions of those whom it could enlist in sanitation, it has astonished the nation by the results it has already accomplished, and it bids fair to make New Orleans one of the healthiest cities on this continent. No wonder people have confidence in such an association and trust its word and its work without question.”

We can assert from positive knowledge that the people of the Mississippi valley regard the existence of this association and its persistence in reformatory works as a matter of the utmost importance; should obstruction be offered, and the only practical effort that has ever been made, with a high and noble purpose, to reform the sanitary evils in our midst, be thwarted by the malcontent, the conscience of those who achieve a design in every sense ignoble may have a sad awakening.

The voluntary labors of the active members of this body will

not be misconstrued by any fair-minded citizen, whose devotion to the public good springs from pure and simple philanthropy.

Reviewing the history of this city from its foundation, we cannot discover that, at any time prior to the organization of this association any efforts have been made by those most deeply concerned, to correct by *practical means* the insanitary condition within the municipality.

On several occasions, notably at the close of the epidemic of yellow fever in 1848 and 1853, as stated by the Sanitary Commission of 1853, the subject of the sanitary condition of our city became a theme of deep concern and anxious scrutiny. The great malignity of the fever, its unparalleled spread, all tended to arouse public attention, and the conclusion was arrived at that the subject merited the most thorough and careful investigation.

Prior to this period the sanitary condition of the city had not received the attention its great importance required. The public had been steadily assured by the authorities and others that "the city was one of the healthiest in the Union," "although subject to occasional epidemics." Confiding in these assurances, the great mass of the citizens took little part in the subject, being quieted and lulled into security by these representations. Our reputation abroad, however, from occasional exposures by Boards of Health and other sources, *and, above all, by the great calamity* of 1853, fully aroused the public, and induced the determination to look thoroughly into the subject.

We propose in this paper to give many valuable quotations from these reports. They are very voluminous. The researches were thorough — the conclusions arrived at in strict accordance with the added knowledge of sanitary and hygienic methods gained during the past quarter of a century. Nevertheless we do not believe that one citizen in a thousand has ever read these reports. They are out of print, and this association is indebted to the editor of the *German Gazette* for the use of a copy.

We do know that their labor was comparatively in vain. Nearly thirty years were permitted to elapse before any adequate number of citizens volunteered to devote a portion of their time to the onerous but transcendent duty of making practical application of the invaluable sanitary suggestions of this commission.

No city can attain to the highest degree of prosperity in which there are not some wise and good men to teach and other men to learn—nay more, what city can hope to prosper, in any degree, that is given over by its own citizens to those who make office-holding the profession of their lives? What avails an expressed devotion to State or city if we permit their affairs to be under the sole control and management of those who very frequently are least interested in their material prosperity?

The experience of the past teaches us that other methods must be adopted than those we have supinely assented to, would we prevent any interruption to the good health and rapid recovery from the almost "moribund" condition of this city four years ago.

What but the dread of yellow fever has prevented the more rapid growth of New Orleans? Who will gainsay the assertion that every epidemic retards our progress for years?

In the past an immense territory was tributary to this city; events which we were unable to control, have worn new channels of trade. How to supplement this lost supremacy should now be our chief concern.

If "health is wealth," let us unite as one man to make permanent the present exceptional salubrity.

In every public enterprise there must be those who lead and others that support. This is a people's movement, pure and simple; the *first*, and, should it be permitted to expire for want of sympathy and support, it may prove to be the *last* that will be adventured within the memory of its rise and fall.

At the beginning, it was not our purpose to aid in the routine work which should be done by a metropolitan health board. That labor was imposed upon this body by the innumerable complaints of every conceivable nuisance, which the "constituted authorities" overlooked or neglected or lacked power to abate.

Our "auxiliary" efforts were, however, exerted to the utmost on the outbreak of yellow fever in the summer succeeding the terrible epidemic of 1878. In the summer of 1879, at which period the members of the Board of Health were in constant friendly communication with the association, we were informed that the board was totally unable, for want of funds, to cope with the gigantic labor required to stamp out the flame before it

spread (as it did in Memphis) throughout this city. This association together with the National Board of Health, undertook the task.

A powerful pump was placed upon the levee in front of the infected district, which encircled with fresh water from the river the entire rectangle of three by five squares, to which area the fever was successfully confined.

Our medical director, the late Dr. White, at once instituted a systematic house-to-house inspection; foul premises were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. This purification was immediately followed by a reinspection, to ascertain if the work had been thoroughly done.

The cost of this great undertaking was many thousand dollars; but when it is considered that another epidemic of yellow fever occurred in Memphis in the summer of 1879, we may, with confidence, leave to those who profited by an uninterrupted business in New Orleans, during that summer of intense anxiety, to estimate the gain.

A few quotations from the "Southern Medical Reports" of 1849, and the report of the Sanitary Commission of 1853 will give a better insight into the purposes of this association than any language of our own. It will also serve a purpose we have always held to be of the utmost importance, that of disseminating among the people a knowledge of our insanitary evils, and of imparting a degree of confidence, which should be universal, that, by well directed and persistent efforts, this city can be made as healthy as any in the country.

Quotations from the Southern Medical Reports, volume I, 1849:

"The government organized by the people of this region to provide for their welfare and safety have deemed the preservation of human life either beneath their notice or beyond their comprehension.

"It appears strange that a city like New Orleans, situated immediately on the banks of the greatest river in the world, should suffer in any respect for the want of water, and we venture to predict that, at some future period, the inhabitants will look back with astonishment at our long endurance of the inconvenience and injuries directly traceable to this cause.

"The sanitary condition of the city is very bad." "Let us not deceive ourselves, but rather let us look the facts sternly in the face and endeavor to find a remedy for existing evils. We shall never commence the great business of reform until we have become fully aware of our real condition.

"Little or nothing has ever yet been done *directly* and *expressly* with the view of improving the sanitary condition of the city of New Orleans. But we trust the time is not far distant when this intelligent community, enlightened by the investigations of the medical profession, will adopt the necessary measures for rendering our city as it may be, both a pleasant and safe abode at all seasons of the year.

"With us, then, there is every hope that, with the progressive improvements which are in accordance with the enlightened period in which we live, and which, of course, the public will adopt as soon as they clearly perceive them, yellow fever will disappear in the train of sanitary ameliorations.

"Yellow fever did not appear in our city until many years after its establishment; nor does it exist in our immediate vicinity at this time (1849), from which it is but reasonable to infer that it *must depend upon some condition of things within our corporation*, which we may hope to discover and correct.

"It is not too much to say that a perfect system of drainage and sewerage, embracing the city and neighborhood, would be cheap at any price, for they at once remove *all known causes of disease* under control of the public; both filth of every kind, and almost everywhere undue moisture.

"The present (1849) system of police is a mere mockery and deception, leaving the public here, and those interested abroad, under the impression that its salubrity is unimprovable.

"The removal of street and back-yard filth has been essayed in vain; in fact the proper and effective cleaning of the city—its effectual drainage, so far as to ascertain how these conditions influence the health and well-being of the inhabitants,

HAS NEVER YET BEEN TRIED.

The offal from the houses has not been removed from the streets; the filth scraped up into masses has been suffered to lie for days, often until washed into the gutters by rain, or scattered by carts

and drains, the gutters left choked up by filth. The Board of Health considers it its sacred duty to the public to speak plainly; it is nearly the only power it has; it can point to causes affecting the salubrity of the city, but it has no power to remove them."

QUOTATIONS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION
OF 1853.

"No opportunity has been slighted—no toils have been spared to push our explorings and researches throughout the vast realm of the yellow fever zone, in both South and North America and the West Indies. Out of these data, together with the experience of many years, have grown the materials which form the opinions and principles put forth in the report, as to the origin and cause of yellow fever. The one is that yellow fever is, and always has been, here and elsewhere a *preventable disease*.

"The other is that the presence of two general hygienic conditions are absolutely indispensable to the organization and transmission of the disease—the one of them, atmospheric, the other terrene. These must meet *in combination*, or, there will be no result. The absence of *one*, as to *this* disease, is as the absence of *both*, and as one of these conditions is almost wholly within the control of man, and the other partially so, it must follow that his power extends to its prevention and expulsion.

"There must exist some cause for the great insalubrity shown in the mortuary returns. It certainly does not arise from its *cleanliness* and the absence of those sources productive of disease in every country.

"Then it must derive its origin from those conditions in which it differs from other places that are healthy. Or shall we abandon as useless, all the dear-bought experience of our race, and remain as we are, despite our recent severe and bitter afflictions? Are we forever to turn our faces upon the past and to be made no wiser by its valuable teachings?

"The problem thus presented to us to solve is not a new one. It has been solved a thousand times before. We give it again, with the special experience derived from our locality and circumstances and with the same uniform results.

"The causes of this insalubrity have been most carefully scrutinized, and it is our deliberate conviction that they are fairly ascribable to local conditions which are mainly removable.

“The great practical principle of the report, therefore is, that the yellow fever, although among the greatest of physical evils, is demonstrably a remediable evil, and it will be the function of a future section to set forth in detail, the remediable appliances which, reasonably employed and scrupulously enforced, will extirpate the disease in any locality.

“If, upon such investigation, the recommendations are found reasonable; if they are in accordance with the science and the well attested experience of the present enlightened age; then we hope there will be no hesitation in putting them upon immediate trial (1853).

“The ‘let alone system’ has been tried long enough; it has filled the domiciles of the dead, cast adrift numbers of our cherished population, restrained and still restrains (1853) large and valuable accessions, and has checked and impaired our advancement and thrift in every branch of industry. The trial has been full and *unsatisfactory*. All unite in saying there must be sanitary reform; it is written in indelible characters on the age.

“If the mortuary calamities of the year 1853 will drive our people, (so long deluded on the subject of their sanitary condition,) to open their eyes to the actual truth; if it can be demonstrated, to their satisfaction that we have labored and suffered under remediable ills; that there is yet hope for us, then the fearful lesson we have been taught will not have been in vain, and we shall date from 1853 a new era of prosperity and progress in all that may be compassed through numbers and commerce—health and thrift.

“In no part of the world is sanitary reform so much needed as in New Orleans. In no country on earth has a place been so much injured through a want of insight into her sanitary condition by her municipal officials. In none have more pains been taken to keep from the people a knowledge of it. The very attempt to enlighten the public in relation to this important interest has been steadily repulsed with denial, if not with incredulity, and the authors have been pointed to as inimical to the city.’

“The obvious effect of all this has been the entire neglect of sanitary measures, which has palsied the hand of enterprise,

and has driven from our city valuable citizens and immigration of labor, of wealth, and of intellect.

“New Orleans is one of the dirtiest, and with other conjoint causes, is consequently the sickliest city in the Union, and scarcely anything has been done to remedy it.

“That the one results from the other, is in exact accordance with the common sense, the common experience and common feeling of mankind, and yet, to use the language of a distinguished investigator, “the city lies quiet, with an open keg of gunpowder with a lighted torch only a foot above it.”

“Like causes produce like effects under the same circumstances, forever; if then the city is to be restored to salubrity there must be a *radical change*. No city can bear many inflictions of such a calamity as that of 1853, without serious deterioration. Concealment and boasting will not help us much.

“Public confidence is plainly on the wane; the disparaging truth, that almost every official, as well as unofficial, means have been used to conceal, deny, explain away, has been resorted to, and now it stands forth in all its unabashed effrontery, in the very face of well attested and repeated proofs that the evil exists and is remediable. It requires a great calamity, like that of 1853, to open our eyes to the actual truth.”

“A conviction of an error must precede its correction.”

“The cost to the city, to reach this conviction is to be estimated by millions, and to her commercial prosperity to the value of her real estate, -- to the reputation for perennial insalubrity,—figures cannot calculate it. Shall we say, then, that all this could *have been prevented*? Have any preventive means been tried?

“The same remarks applies to all Northern cities. Philadelphia particularly has suffered as much by yellow fever as New Orleans.

“Nay, it has been more fatal there than here. The same remarks are applicable to New York, Boston and Baltimore; they each of them have had their filthy or infected localities when their sanitary measures were not properly enforced.

“All epidemics, as all other diseases, must have a beginning, a starting point. That point will be in whatever part of a city or country, in which the localizing causes shall exist in the greatest

excess. This has been clearly demonstrated, by an examination into this subject in England, where it has been made evident that while an epidemic state of the atmosphere exists over the whole country, the *disease will only be developed where there exists also in more or less intensity, the localizing conditions of filth, moisture, stagnant air, etc., to constitute the perfect combination.*

“In the latter part of the last century, and the earlier decades of this, yellow fever was common, almost annually in some cities, as far north as latitude 40 deg. The ground is now assumed, and will be hereafter supported in this report, that the immunity now enjoyed by them, has resulted from no change of climate, but has *arisen from the application and enforcement of sanitary laws and regulations.*

“The *cheapest, best and most rational mode*, will be found in the practical application of the *means of prevention*, by the introduction of those sanitary measures that experience, fully tested, has shown to have saved other communities from pestilence and restored them to salubrity.

“* * * Surely this is worth striving for, and we shall prove that all this is within our power; that it only requires us to put our shoulders firmly to the wheel, and that you are bound by every principle to own the impulse which duty prompts, and a sense of self-preservation and a just pride aid us in carrying out.”

Quoting at great length from an English report, the conclusion is arrived at, “that the most perfect sanitary arrangements are the largest pecuniary economy, and the cost of preventable diseases is equal to the whole public revenues of the country.

“If then we have arrived at this important fact, to what cause *yellow fever is to be ascribed*, if we can no longer plead ignorance, as an excuse for inaction, *we have no farther excuse for its continuance among us*, and we do seriously think that it is as much the duty of the civil authorities, to *keep this city free from yellow fever* as it is to keep it *exempt from any other controllable calamity*. REFORM is the great watchword applicable to our situation, and no stone should be left unturned to remedy the evils of the past, and arrest the downward march of everything.

“Our reputation abroad for salubrity is ruined—only reform is now left for us. All cities, wherever situated, have been subject

to epidemics. New Orleans has stood many such trials. She is now at a crisis, and it will depend upon her people to say whether she shall recuperate or not.

"Her consulting faculty, (this Commission) have pronounced her entirely susceptible of cure, if their advice *is followed*, otherwise not. A new era has sprung up; it is signalized by the appointment of this first Commission of Inquiry into the real, not the supposititious, condition of New Orleans. We look upon it as a proof that the reform so much needed, and without which no permanent prosperity is to be expected for this city, is about to commence; that the influence of sanitary measures is at last to be attempted, and we cannot avoid the prediction that it will eventuate, as it has in all other places, in future prosperity and advancement.

"As regards the propriety of quarantine, the Commission are unanimously of opinion that a quarantine should be established."

Accordingly, in 1855, at its next session after the publication of this report, the Legislature enacted our present quarantine laws.

These quotations represent, it will not be doubted, the sanitary evils which existed at the time they were written, 1849 and 1853. Since then, however, much has been accomplished correcting the insanitary conditions within the corporate limits. Still much remains to be done, and it is for the citizens to determine, in the light of past experience, whether the task shall be confided alone to the municipal authorities, or whether there is needed the assistance of such a body as this Association acting in their behalf, uninfluenced by any consideration, be it said, other than those which will produce the speediest and best results in the most practical and economical manner.

The natural increase of population has extended the limits of the city since 1853. Lagoons, canals and basins which then existed have been filled up and obliterated. Swamps in the rear of the city have been cleared of timber, exposing to the influence of the sun and air a vast malarious area.

There have been many miles of streets paved with granite blocks, replacing the objectionable wooden pavements. Banquettes, also formerly constructed of plank, have been covered with flagging or brick. An aggregate of 15 acres of deep and

filthy ponds, denominated "fever holes," extending on the levee upward from Canal street, are no longer in existence.

Well-contrived garbage boats now receive and deposit the immense accumulation of filth in the deep bosom of the Mississippi river, which filth was deposited formerly in the rear of the city often within its limits.

One hundred and seventy miles of street gutters are now flushed by an abundant stream of fresh water from the river, rendering them comparatively clean and positively innoxious. To that extent they no longer emit their sickening odors, nor serve as hot-beds for the production of mosquitoes.

The Camp street canal, but recently a disgusting cesspool of filthy sewage, injurious alike to health and the value of adjacent property, has been converted into a pleasant promenade.

The public squares, formerly enclosed by high curbs and dilapidated railings, concealing filth and promoting moisture and mould, the resort of tramps by day, and their favorite lodging ground by night, are now, thanks to the efforts of intelligent citizens following the recommendations of this association, converted into delightful resorts for young and old. Above all, the public mind is now as never before directed toward those measures of prevention, whereby, according to the reports from which we have so liberally quoted, this city may be rendered exempt, as Eastern cities have been, from the curse of yellow fever.

The public press of New Orleans has been specially instrumental in producing this most hopeful result.

The press of this city have, without exception, advocated the cause of sanitary reform with a talent and perseverance, albeit without pecuniary reward, which reflects upon them the highest honor.

Regarding the matters treated of in this paper as of transcendent interest to every citizen, it will be printed in popular form and widely circulated, for it is thus only that the minds of the busy workers in a large city can be drawn away from their daily pursuits to reflect upon a subject which, viewed aright, is the only sure foundation upon which to erect a lasting superstructure of prosperity.

On every convenient occasion we have given notice that our transactions and debates are open to the public. We invite all citizens to our weekly meetings, and to take part in the discussion of matters relating to their welfare.

